

Parts of Speech

APSU Writing Center Handout

Just like a cell, your paper is made up of different parts that work together to create a cohesive and successful piece of writing.

- The cell membrane represents you, the writer, the most important part of your paper.
- Just as the cell membrane holds everything together and controls what enters and exits, you keep the paper organized, deciding what stays in and what gets cut.

Cytoplasm (Structure of the Paper)

- The cytoplasm fills the cell and keeps everything in place.
- Similarly, the structure of your paper keeps your ideas organized. Without a solid structure, your ideas can become unclear.

Cytoskeleton (Introduction):

- The cytoskeleton shapes the cell and gives it strength.
- Your introduction shapes your paper, sets the direction, and provides context for the reader.

Mitochondria (Purpose of the Paper):

- Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, providing energy.
- In the same way, the purpose of your paper gives it direction and energy. Without a clear purpose, your paper lacks focus.

Nucleus (Thesis):

- The nucleus holds the cell's genetic information and directs its activities.
- Your thesis defines your paper's purpose and guides your reader through the arguments.

Golgi Apparatus (Introductory Sentence):

- The Golgi apparatus packages proteins for delivery.
- Your introductory sentence packages the main idea of your paragraph, giving the reader a preview of what's to come.

Microtubules (Supporting Evidence):

- Microtubules help organize the cell and transport materials.
- Your supporting evidence organizes your argument and guides it toward a clear conclusion.

Ribosomes (Synthesizing Evidence):

- Ribosomes build proteins by linking amino acids.
- Synthesize your evidence, linking it together to build a strong, convincing argument.

Endoplasmic Reticulum (Transitions):

- The Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) moves materials around inside the cell.
- Your transitional sentences help guide the reader smoothly from one idea to the next, making sure your paper flows logically.

Lysosomes (Conclusion):

- Lysosomes digest materials in the cell, breaking down waste and food.
- Your conclusion works the same way, taking all the information you've presented and digesting it into a clear takeaway for your reader.

References

Burks, R., & Todd, M. (2015). Guide for Writing in Biology. Southwestern University.

<https://www.southwestern.edu/live/files/4167-guide-for-writing-in-biologypdf>

University of Nevada, Reno. (2020, August 24). A Cell-based Guide to Writing. University

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